

We claim:

1. A vaccine for alleviating or preventing autoimmune disorders induced by infection with Epstein-Barr virus comprising

Epstein-Barr virus or a component thereof in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier for administration of the virus or viral component in an amount and mode of administration effective to alleviate or prevent the autoimmune disorders.

2. The vaccine of claim 1 wherein one or more structures of the Epstein-Barr virus are removed or altered to decrease the potential that the vaccine will induce an autoimmune disorder.

3. The vaccine of claim 1 wherein the component of Epstein-Barr virus is selected from the group consisting of peptides or proteins expressed from recombinant DNA or RNA with sequence identity to Epstein-Barr virus, viral DNA or RNA, and carbohydrate components of the Epstein-Barr virus.

4. The vaccine of claim 1 wherein the Epstein-Barr virus comprises the nuclear antigen 1 protein not including a peptide sequence selected from the group consisting of PEPGRRP (SEQ ID NO:1), GRGRGRGG (SEQ ID NO:2) and RGRGREK (SEQ ID NO:3).

5. The vaccine of claim 1 in a pharmaceutical carrier for administration by injection.

6. A diagnostic test comprising reagents which can be used to detect levels of antibodies to Epstein-Barr virus, indicators of Epstein-Barr infection of cells, or levels of Epstein-Barr DNA or protein in a patient, and

control samples from individuals not at risk of developing an autoimmune disease, and

means for determining the differences in levels of a patient and control samples to distinguish individuals at higher risk of developing an autoimmune disease from those at lower risk of developing an autoimmune disease.

7. The diagnostic test of claim 6 wherein the reagents are used in assays based upon the relative presence of an antibody, cellular proliferation, molecular

binding, cytokine production, skin reaction, or cell surface antigen.

8. The diagnostic test of claim 6 wherein the reagents are used to detect antibodies to peptides from Epstein-Barr virus selected from the group consisting of PPPGRRP (SEQ ID NO:1), GRGRGRGG (SEQ ID NO:2), RGRGREK (SEQ ID NO:3), GAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGA (SEQ ID NO:7), GPQRRGGDNHGRGRGRGRGGGRPG (SEQ ID NO:98), GGSGSGPRHRDGVRRPQKRP (SEQ ID NO:25), RPQKRPS (SEQ ID NO:26), QKRPSICGCKGTHGGTG (SEQ ID NO:27), GTGAGAGARGRGG (SEQ ID NO:99), SGGRGRGG (SEQ ID NO:100), RGGSGGRRGRGR (SEQ ID NO:101), RARGRGRGRGEKPPRS (SEQ ID NO:102), SSSSGSPRRPPPGR (SEQ ID NO:103), RPPPGRRPFFHPVGEADYFEYHQEG (SEQ ID NO:104), PDVPPGAI (SEQ ID NO:33), PGAIEQGPA (SEQ ID NO:34), GPSTGPRG (SEQ ID NO:105), GQGDGGRRK (SEQ ID NO:37), DGRRKKGGWFGKHR (SEQ ID NO:38), GKHRGQGGSN (SEQ ID NO:106), GQGGSNPK (SEQ ID NO:107), NPKFENIA (SEQ ID NO:108), RSHVERTT (SEQ ID NO:109), VFVYGGSKT (SEQ ID NO:110), GSKTSLYNL (SEQ ID NO:111), GMAPGPGP (SEQ ID NO:46), PQGPLRE (SEQ ID NO:47), CNIRVTVC (SEQ ID NO:48), RVTVCSFDDG (SEQ ID NO:49), PPWFPPMVEG (SEQ ID NO:50).

9. The diagnostic test of claim 8 comprising reagents for detection of antibodies to GAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGA (SEQ ID NO:7).

10. The diagnostic test of claim 6 for testing patients identified with or at risk of developing systemic lupus erythematosus comprising control samples from individuals with systemic lupus erythematosus.

11. A method for preventing or alleviating autoimmune disorders induced by infection with Epstein-Barr virus comprising
vaccinating or administering to a individual at risk of developing, or who has been identified as having symptoms associated with, an autoimmune disorder induced by infection with Epstein-Barr virus,

Epstein-Barr virus or a component thereof in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier for administration of the virus or viral component in an

amount and mode of administration effective to alleviate or prevent the autoimmune disorders.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein one or more structures of the Epstein-Barr virus are removed or altered to decrease the potential that the vaccine will induce an autoimmune disorder.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein the component of Epstein-Barr virus is selected from the group consisting of peptides or proteins expressed from recombinant DNA or RNA with sequence identity to Epstein-Barr virus, viral DNA or RNA, and carbohydrate components of the Epstein-Barr virus.

14. The method of claim 11 wherein the Epstein-Barr virus comprises the nuclear antigen 1 protein not including a peptide sequence selected from the group consisting of PPPGRRP (SEQ ID NO:1), GRGRGRGG (SEQ ID NO:2) and RGRGREK (SEQ ID NO:3).

15. The method of claim 11 wherein the individual has symptoms of or is at risk of developing an autoimmune disorder selected from the group consisting of ¹systemic lupus erythematosus, ²Sjogren's syndrome, ³rheumatoid arthritis, ⁴juvenile onset diabetes mellitus, ⁵Wegener's granulomatosis, ⁶inflammatory bowel disease, ⁷polymyositis, ⁸dermatomyositis, ⁹multiple endocrine failure, ¹⁰Schmidt's syndrome, ¹¹autoimmune uveitis, ¹²Addison's disease, ¹³adrenalitis, ¹⁴primary biliary cirrhosis, ¹⁵Graves' disease, ¹⁶thyroiditis, ¹⁷Hashimoto's thyroiditis, ¹⁸autoimmune thyroid disease, ¹⁹pernicious anemia, ²⁰lupoid hepatitis, ²¹demyelating diseases, ²²multiple sclerosis, ²³subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus, ²⁴hypoparathyroidism, ²⁵Dressler's syndrome, ²⁶myasthenia gravis, ²⁷autoimmune thrombocytopenia, ²⁸idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura, ²⁹hemolytic anemia, ³⁰autoimmune hemolytic anemia, ³¹pemphigus vulgaris, ³²pemphigus, ³³bullous pemphigoid, ³⁴dermatitis herpetiformis, ³⁵alopecia areata, ³⁶autoimmune cystitis, ³⁷pemphigoid, ³⁸scleroderma, ³⁹progressive systemic sclerosis, ⁴⁰CREST syndrome (calcinosis, Raynaud's esophageal dysmotility, sclerodactyly, and telangiectasia), ⁴¹adult onset diabetes mellitus (Type II diabetes), ⁴²male or female autoimmune infertility, ⁴³ankylosing spondylitis, ⁴⁴ulcerative colitis, ⁴⁵Crohn's disease, ⁴⁶mixed connective tissue disease, ⁴⁷polyarteritis nodosa, ⁴⁸systemic

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necrotizing vasculitis, juvenile onset rheumatoid arthritis, 50
atopic dermatitis, atopic rhinitis, Goodpasture's syndrome, Chagas' disease, 54
sarcoidosis, rheumatic fever, asthma, recurrent abortion, anti-phospholipid 58
syndrome, farmer's lung, erythema multiforme, postcardotomy syndrome, 61
Cushing's syndrome, autoimmune chronic active hepatitis, bird-fancier's lung, 64
allergic encephalomyelitis, toxic necrodermal lysis, alopecia, Alport's syndrome, 68
alveolitis, allergic alveolitis, fibrosing alveolitis, interstitial lung disease, 72
erythema nodosum, pyoderma gangrenosum, transfusion reaction, chronic 75
fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, Takayasu's arteritis, Kawasaki's disease, 79
polymyalgia rheumatica, temporal arteritis, giant cell arteritis, Sampter's 83
syndrome (triaditis also called, nasal polyps, eosinophilia, and asthma), Behcet's 84
disease, Caplan's syndrome, dengue, encephalomyositis, endocarditis, 85
myocarditis, endomyocardial fibrosis, endophthalmitis, erythema elevatum et 87
diutinum, psoriasis, erythroblastosis fetalis, fascitis with eosinophilia, Shulman's 90
syndrome, Felty's syndrome, filariasis, cyclitis, chronic cyclitis, heterochromic 95
cyclitis, Fuch's cyclitis, IgA nephropathy, Henoch-Schonlein purpura, 100
glomerulonephritis, cardiomyopathy, post vaccination syndromes, Hodgkin's
and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, renal cell carcinoma, Eaton-Lambert syndrome,
relapsing polychondritis.

16. The method of claim 11 wherein the vaccine is administered prior to infection with Epstein-Barr virus.

17. The method of claim 11 wherein the vaccine is administered to an individual who has or has previously had an infection with Epstein-Barr virus.

18. The method of claim 11 wherein the autoimmune disorder is systemic lupus erythematosus.

19. A method for determining the likelihood that an individual has an autoimmune disorder induced by Epstein-Barr virus, or is at risk for developing such an autoimmune disorder, comprising
obtaining a sample from the individual to be tested,
mixing the sample with reagents which can be used to detect levels of antibodies to Epstein-Barr virus, indicators of Epstein-Barr infection of cells, or

levels of Epstein-Barr DNA or protein in a patient,

analyzing the sample, and

comparing the analysis of the sample with results obtained with control samples from individuals not at risk of developing an autoimmune disease to determine if the differences in levels of the individual and control samples indicates the individual is at a higher risk of developing an autoimmune disease than controls who are at lower risk of developing an autoimmune disease.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the reagents are used in assays based upon the relative presence of an antibody, cellular proliferation, molecular binding, cytokine production, skin reaction, or cell surface antigen.

21. The method of claim 19 wherein the reagents are used to detect antibodies to peptides from Epstein-Barr virus selected from the group consisting of PPPGRRP (SEQ ID NO:1), GRGRGRGG (SEQ ID NO:2), RGRGREK (SEQ ID NO:3), GAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGA (SEQ ID NO:7), GPQRRGGDNHGRGRGRGRGGGRPG (SEQ ID NO:98), GGSGSGPRHRDGVRRPQKRP (SEQ ID NO:25), RPQKRPS (SEQ ID NO:26), QKRPSICGCKGTHGGTG (SEQ ID NO:27), GTGAGAGARGRG (SEQ ID NO:99), SGGRGRGG (SEQ ID NO:100), RGGSGGRRGRGR (SEQ ID NO:101), RARGRGRGRGEKRPRS (SEQ ID NO:102), SSSSGSPRRPPPGR (SEQ ID NO:103), RPPPGRRPFFHPVGEADYFEYHQEG (SEQ ID NO:104), PDVPPGAI (SEQ ID NO:33), PGAIEQGPA (SEQ ID NO:34), GPSTGPRG (SEQ ID NO:105), GQGDGGRRK (SEQ ID NO:37), DGGRKKGGWFGKHR (SEQ ID NO:38), GKHRGQGGSN (SEQ ID NO:106), GQGGSNPK (SEQ ID NO:107), NPKFENIA (SEQ ID NO:108), RSHVERTT (SEQ ID NO:109), VFVYGGSKT (SEQ ID NO:110), GSKTSLYNL (SEQ ID NO:111), GMAPGPGP (SEQ ID NO:46), PQPGPLRE (SEQ ID NO:47), CNIRVTVC (SEQ ID NO:48), RVTVCFSFDDG (SEQ ID NO:49), PPWFPPMVEG (SEQ ID NO:50).

22. The method of claim 19 wherein the individual is tested for the presence of antibodies to GAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGAGA (SEQ ID NO:7).

23. A method for screening of therapeutics for prevention or alleviation of autoimmune disorders induced by infection with Epstein-Barr virus comprising

administering the therapeutic to be tested to an animal vaccinated with Epstein-Barr virus or a component thereof in an amount and mode of administration effective to induce an autoimmune response.

24. The method of claim 23 further comprising administering the therapeutic to an animal which does not develop an autoimmune response when vaccinated with the same composition effective in another strain of the animal, and determining the difference in response to the therapeutic.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein the animals are mice.

26. A method for screening for genetic markers or risk factors for development of autoimmune disorders induced by infection with Epstein-Barr virus comprising comparing the responses of different strains of the same species of an animal vaccinated with Epstein-Barr virus or a component thereof in an amount and mode of administration effective to induce an autoimmune response in at least one of the strains and comparing the differences in the genetics of the different strains to identify potential genetic markers or risk factors.